

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

January 22nd, 2013

LENTEN STUDY

Questions about the BCP you never had the courage to ask

FOLKS familiar with Church history usually claim the first English Prayer Book is the First Prayer Book of King Edward VI, which was authorized for use in 1549. True, this wonderful book is the ancestor of all the Books of Common Prayer in use in the world of Anglicanism today – albeit a very distant one in many cases, with its literary and theological DNA scarcely discernible. But it cannot fairly be claimed that it is the English Church's first prayer book.

The English Church has played a major role in the liturgical life of the Church catholic for more than one and a half millennia. Yet most Anglicans are entirely ignorant of the fact. This year's Lenten Study will trace the development of the BCP from pre-Saxon times onwards.

Our Lenten Series "The Development of the Prayer Book" runs for five Wednesday evenings beginning after 6.00 PM Evening Prayer on February 20th and ending on March 20th. The presenter will be the Rector.

We are offering the usual deal – a hearty winter soup, the best bread in Baltimore and beverages. If you need more to eat, you are welcome to bring a sandwich.

There will be plenty of food for thought: The liturgical works that survive from times prior to the Seventh Century demonstrate a lively liturgical tradition in which much, if not all, of the Eucharistic rite was celebrated in the vernacular rather than Latin. Thus it can be claimed they were distinctly English liturgies.

Latin, however, was the *lingua franca* of the polyglot British society which by the 6th & 7th Centuries embraced a number of languages, including at least three major strains of Gaelic (four if you include Pictish), Anglo Saxon and Old Nordic, and numerous dialects of each.

When it came to the written word, Latin was a convenient compromise in an age when books, even of the cheapest sort, were laboriously hand copied by scribes. But while service books were often written in Latin, it was the custom for celebrants to make a running translation of the liturgy into the vernacular – a practice continued by priests today in places, such as the Philippines, which boast multiple languages.

You'll find evidence of this practice, for example in the autobiography of Ireland's patron saint. In his *Confessions*, written in the late 5th/early 6th centuries, St. Patrick grumbles that his native Latin has been ruined by years of speaking the "barbarous" Irish tongue. His *Confessions* show he wasn't exaggerating. Patrick's Latin is, indeed, execrable – far worse than one would expect of a priest who routinely celebrated in Latin.

By the way, this habit of saying the liturgy at least partially in the vernacular seems to have continued into the early Middle Ages when the Epistle and Gospel were often read in the vernacular during parochial Masses. And it's worth noting that Archbishop Thomas Cranmer re-instituted this practice as a temporary measure before the 1549 Prayer Book was authorized.

Latin, however, did not entirely displace the major local languages as the medium for religious publishing in Britain until late in the first Millennium. A considerable body of writings remains from the ancient church in Wales and Ireland; while among the towering literary achievements of the pre-Norman English Church in the 8th Century was the Venerable Bede's translation of the Gospels into Anglo Saxon.

The great historian and scholar, who spent virtually his entire life at the great Monastery at Jarrow, is best known today for his *History of the English Church and People*. But tradition has it that his last words were those of the final verse of St. John's Gospel:

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." Then, having completed his self-appointed task, he begged for the *Gloria in Excelsis* to be sung and, as the brother sang the great hymn, Bede died.

Contrary to common belief, England from the late 6th Century to the early part of the 9th Century was among the most prosperous and relatively tranquil places in the West.

Europe, as St. Martin of Tours records, was wracked by constant warfare. Northern and central Italy was laid waste by barbarians. Rome had been put to sack not only by the barbarian invaders, but its own unpaid soldiery. Sicily had been conquered by Moslem hordes, who used it as a base to invade southern Italy and threaten Rome itself.

But with the rise of the Frankish Empire in the mid-8th Century, the situation began to stabilize. Charles or Karl, the Frankish king, later proclaimed the Holy Roman Emperor. Charlemagne, as he came to be known, was not content to remain a semi-barbarian tribal leader – a Franco-German Attila the Hun.

He transformed the Palace School at his court in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) – founded by his ancestors to teach royal children manners – into a center for the study of religion and the liberal arts. And the man he chose to lead it was a disciple of the Venerable Bede, an eminent English scholar named Alcuin from St. Peter's School at York, renowned as a centre of learning not only in religious matters but also in the liberal arts, literature and science.

In about 780, Alcuin became Charlemagne's chief advisor on ecclesiastical and educational affairs. And from 782 to 790, Alcuin's pupils included the king, himself, his sons Pepin and Louis, the young men sent to be educated at the court, and the young clerics attached to the palace chapel. Alcuin lastingly transformed education in Europe with the philosophy of the York School.

In the course of doing so, he – unintentionally perhaps -- preserved for future generations the works of ancient Rome's literary giants (Virgil, Livy, Cicero, Ovid, Tacitus, Horace, Terence, Martial, etc.). Alcuin, you see, insisted his apprentice scribes perfect their skills on secular writings before being permitted to tackle the sacred.

More relevant to the subject under discussion, Charlemagne considered the Eucharistic liturgy in use by the Roman pontiff too simple and primitive for use in an emperor's court. Thus he commissioned Alcuin to compose the Eucharistic liturgy for the Holy Roman Empire.

Ironically perhaps, until the Counter Reformation which began in the mid-16th Century, the Mass said by the Roman pontiffs was a rite essentially inspired by the Rite of York – one of the great English pre-reformation liturgies. Even more ironically, the Mass that emerged from the counter-reformation was largely derived from the Sarum Rite, the oldest of the English Eucharistic rites.

Come and find out about it on Wednesday, February 20th, at about 6.45 PM. We guarantee you won't be bored! **GPH**✘

Parish Life Committee maps out a busy 2013

At the Parish Life Committee meeting on January 8th, new co-chairs Priscilla and Dick Huffman mapped out a busy year once again for the committee's fellowship and fundraising efforts.

The first event, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, is just around the corner on February 12th, from 5 to 7.30 pm. The price

St. Stephen's Choir
A CANDLEMAS
CHORAL EVENSONG
at 6.00 PM
at The Parish Church
Sunday, January 27th,
2013

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 12th at 5pm. Save the Date!

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Being January 27th, 2013

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 9:24-27

The Gospel: St. Matthew 20:1-16

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 121

The First Lesson: Joshua 1:1-9

The Second Lesson: II Timothy 2:1-13

Diane, John, Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Ray, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee, Emily, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Fran, Carol, and Suzie.

of admission is just \$5 per adult and \$2.50 for each for the first two children - any additional children are free! It's been this way for 22 years now. How's that for beating inflation!

Highlights for the coming year include the Lenten Suppers beginning on February 20th, the Garden Party on May 4th, Silly Summer Suppers running from June 20th through September 19th, a fall church picnic at Ellen Reather's home on September 8th, and the Cookie Walk on December 7th.

The Parish Life Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 pm. Please join us to be part of the planning and organization of these and other events.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Fr Guy✘, Ray✘, Maurice, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina, fff Donna,

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Stephen, Rachel, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins
(410-308-2771)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.15 am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

COLLECTS FOR THE Second Sunday
After the Epiphany and the
Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. *AMEN*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 111

O God, who, by the preaching of thine apostle Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

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